

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 3, 4, 10, 15, 16, and 20 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-14 were pending in the present application. By way of the Preliminary Amendment dated July 1, 2003, claims 15-33 were added. By way of this Reply, claims 1-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 34-60 have been added. Accordingly, claims 34-60 are pending in the present application. Claims 34, 36, 56-58, and 60 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 34, 36, and 58.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-33 have been cancelled, and claims 34-60 have been added in this Reply to clarify the present invention recited. Support for the amendments to claims 34-38, 46-48, and 56-60 may be found in, for example, the original claims. Further, Support for the amendments to claims 39-43 and 49-53 may be found in, for example, Figs. 9 and 14-16. Furthermore, Support for the amendments to claims 44, 45, 54, and 55 may be found in, for example, paragraph 0009 of the specification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Objection(s)

Claims 12-14 and 23-33 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 12-14 and 23-33 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested. Additionally, as requested by the Examiner, Applicant has added claims 33-60 renumbered.

The drawings are objected to because figures 1 and 2 lacked the designation "Prior Art." The drawings have been amended in this Reply accordingly. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-23, 26-30, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0047539 A1 ("Okubora et al."). These claims have been cancelled in this Reply. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 34 and 35 have been added. New independent claim 34 includes the subject matter of original claim 3, which was considered as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claim 34 are respectfully requested. Further, new claim 35 depends from claim 34. For at least the same reasons, entry and allowance of new claim 35 are also respectfully requested.

New claims 36-55 have been added. New independent claim 36 includes a similar subject matter to original claim 4, which was considered as allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically, as specifically required in claim 36, the method includes the limitation of “the unnecessary part of the first substrate opposite to the functional region is removed by the layer to facilitate removal of the unnecessary part.” Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claim 36 are respectfully requested. Further, new claims 37-55 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 36. For at least the same reasons, entry and allowance of new claims 37-55 are respectfully requested.

New independent claim 56 has been added. Claim 56 includes the subject matter of original claim 10, which was considered as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claim 56 are respectfully requested.

New independent claim 57 has been added. Claim 56 includes the subject matter of original claim 20, which was considered as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claim 57 are respectfully requested.

New claims 58 and 59 have been added. New independent claim 58 includes a similar subject matter to claim 34 as discussed above. Further, new claim 59 depends from claim 58. For at least the same reason as discussed above, entry and allowance of new claims 58 and 59 are respectfully requested.

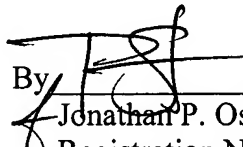
New claim 60 has been added. Claim 60 includes a similar subject matter to claim 56 as discussed above. Accordingly, for at least the same reason as discussed above, entry and allowance of new claim 60 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115.081001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend figures 1 and 2 as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets. Also, Applicants submit that the replacement sheets are formal and enclose a Separate Letter to the Official Draftsperson. Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to indicate the designation "Prior Art." No new matter has been added by these amendments.